

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application:

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A spool for shortening the length of a cord and optionally tensioning it at the same time, the spool comprising a reel formation in the form of an elongated generally straight shank having a length of from about 10 to about 50 times the diameter of the shank and around which the cord can be wound to shorten its effective length, the shank having a transverse retainer formation at each of its ends for operatively preventing the cord that is wound onto the reel from unwinding therefrom, a keeper formation at one end of the shank for cooperation with a cord to maintain said end in association with the cord whilst the shank is rotated to wind cord onto the shank by rotation thereof and a torque transmitting formation at the other end of the shank whereby the reel can be rotated about its own axis wherein the transverse retainer formations are adapted operatively to prevent the wound cord from unraveling from ~~off the shank of cord wound around~~ the elongated shank at least whilst the cord is held under tension and the axis of the shank extends in the same general direction as that in which the cord extends.
2. (Previously presented): A spool as claimed in claim 1 in which the transverse retainer formation at said one end of the shank forms also the keeper formation.

3. (Previously presented): A spool as claimed in claim 2 in which the combined retainer and keeper formation is a generally U-shaped formation extending at generally right angles to the length of the shank.
4. (Previously presented): A spool as claimed in claim 1 in which the retainer formation at said other end of the shank forms also the torque transmitting formation.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended): A spool as claimed in claim 1 ~~5~~ in which the length of the shank is from about 15 to 40 times the diameter of the shank.
7. (Currently amended): A spool as claimed in claim 1 in which additional holding means ~~are~~ is provided for releasably engaging a cooperant cord to prevent unravelling thereof off the shank under conditions in which tension is removed from the cord ~~tension member~~.
8. (Previously presented): A spool as claimed in claim 1 in which the spool is formed from a suitable gauge of metal wire or rod that is bent to form a generally straight shank in the middle; a combination retainer formation and keeper formation at one end; and a combination retainer formation and torque transmitting formation at the other end.
9. (Previously presented): A spool as claimed in claim 1 in which the torque transmitting formation is a handle formed integral with the shank.
10. (Previously presented): A spool as claimed in claim 1 in which the torque transmitting formation is adapted for cooperation with a separate manually operable tool in the form of a crank.

11. (Currently amended): A spool as claimed in claim 9 ~~10~~ in which the spool has a generally axially extending axle for cooperation with a bore or socket in a cooperant part of said manually operable tool in order to align said part and the spool approximately axially during cooperant use thereof.
12. (Previously presented): A method of shortening a cord comprising the steps of associating the keeper formation of a spool as claimed in claim 1 with the cord; rotating the shank generally about its own axis by means of the torque transmitting formation with the shank extending transverse to the cord so as to wind cord around the shank to a required extent; and releasing the torque transmitting formation such that the shank extends in the same general direction as the cord and the transverse retainer formations at each end serve to prevent unravelling of the cord from the shank.
13. (Currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 11 ~~12~~ in which the spool is manipulated such that the shank extends at an incline to the cord, at least during rotation of the shank to initiate winding of the cord around the shank and, in the case that a plurality of revolutions of the shank are required to shorten the length thereof adequately, winding said plurality of revolutions on the shank towards said one end thereof having the keeper formation, this being effected by manipulating the angle at which the shank extends transverse to the general length of the cord, followed by a decrease in the angle at which the shank extends relative to the cord so that a final revolution or part revolution of the cord spirals along a substantial portion of the length of the shank.
14. (Canceled)